

APPROVED: Meeting No. 20-93

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 16-93

May 6, 1993

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on May 6, 1993, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow (left at 8:05 p.m.)

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

ABSENT

Councilmember David Robbins (Out of town on business)

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer and City Clerk Paula Jewell.

Re: Worksession with Rockville Arts Place

Executive Board Members Robert Ballard, Judy Greenberg, and Robert Roseman discussed the following with the Mayor and Council.

An audio visual presentation was shown advertising the Rockville Arts Place; the spot has been airing on Cable 53. The Board distributed information packages to the Mayor and Council to give some idea of the scope, objectives and projects RAP has been involved in; the Board sees a lot of expansion opportunities for RAP. Referring to the idea discussed during the Cultural Arts Commission worksession, the members talked about turning the Town Center

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parking lot into a place where people could gather for lunch concerts. The idea of Middle Lane housing a sculpture center and a small cafe was discussed.

RAP and the Corcoran School of Art will be offering classes for students to take as optional college degree earning as well as for leisure. This affiliation will provide an economic opportunity for RAP and would bring more people to Rockville. The RAP Board members are looking to annex 6,000 additional square feet adjacent to their current site. The Board is also looking at increasing usage fees which are currently below market.

The Mayor and Council discussed long range fiscal projections for RAP. The Executive Board is asking for consideration of \$67,500 in funding over the next five years. Discussion followed on what was thought to be an understanding of the City's financial obligation to RAP. Concern was expressed that the City had already made and exceeded its financial subsidiaries to RAP. Comment was also made that there were other arts and social groups in the City that were struggling and that could not be ignored. Mayor Duncan commented that RAP was a year-round organization that was open every day to the public and there was a considerable difference between this group and other similar groups in the City.

Councilmember Marrinan asked that the City Manager put into writing what the intended commitment of the Mayor and Council is to avoid any future conflicts of understanding.

Re: Worksession with the Human Rights  
Commission

Walt Davis, Chairperson, and Commission members Maura Bowen, Carol Hannaford, Barbara Holmes, Claudia Segal, and Joy Stein discussed the following with the Mayor and Council.

The Commission is reviewing the Human Rights Ordinance and suggesting amendments to clean up the legislation to: (a) remove the \$500 cap on damages; (b) comply with the ADA; and (c) make the legislation gender neutral. The Commission will work with the City Attorney to effect these changes before the legislation comes back for presentation to the Mayor and Council and for adoption.

The Commission reported on the following:

- o Martin Luther King Celebration - This year's celebration included more student involvement. Suggestions for next year's event would be welcome from the Mayor and Council. The Mayor and Council expressed their support for paying for a guest speaker.
- o Community Mediation Program - Baltimore County and Prince George's County both use mediation programs which speed up the handling of disputes and offer a neutral party to handle disputes. The Commission would like to give this idea a try and will come back to the Mayor and Council with a proposal.
- o Outreach Efforts - Community outreach efforts are being made to involve more members that are indicative of the Rockville community; the Commission will be advertising more widely for members from diverse backgrounds. All commissioners are planning to participate in the City's Ride-Along program.

Councilmember Coyle asked that the Commission work with the Rockville Chamber of Commerce to get information out to the business community about the Human Rights Commission.

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- o Resources - The Commission plans to put together a plan on the types of resources available to educate people on how to deal with hate and violence incidents.

Re: Worksession with Planning Commission

James Vitol, Chairperson, and Commission members Dennis Kelly, Jerome Loux, and David Melnick discussed the following with the Mayor and Council.

The Commission is trying to complete the new Master Plan by the end of June. Discussions followed about addressing in the Master Plan, attracting industrial businesses into the City. Councilmember Coyle noted that he had some written comments to pass along to the Commission on this. The Commission was asked to try to accomplish the Master Plan before a new Mayor and Council was elected.

In response to a question by Mayor Duncan, the Commission noted that they had no concerns with the Thomas Farm annexation; however a neighborhood sector plan would have to be done at some point.

The Town Center and Foulger Pratt projects were discussed. Mayor Duncan questioned whether the amenity mix was being looked at as part of the Master Plan. The Commission responded that these should not be in the Master Plan; they should be in the zoning ordinance. However, the members noted that they had just received the RCI agreement and had not, collectively as a body, reviewed and discussed it. The Planning Commission was asked to make some recommendations on this to the Mayor and Council. Other issues the Planning Commission is working on are reviewing Metro's zoning and Town Center transportation issues. Mayor Duncan reminded the Commission that once the RCI agreement was completed, the intent

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is that the Planning Commission takes on the responsibility. Staff will get the revised agreement language to Commission members.

The Mayor and Council discussed the idea of reducing the composition of the Planning Commission from 7 to 5 members. Mayor Duncan noted that the Mayor and Council had been waiting to fill any vacancy until this idea had been discussed. A straw poll resulted in two votes in favor of the reduction and two members in favor of a 7-member body; the Commission was asked to think about this proposal.

Re: Worksession with Traffic and Transportation  
Commission

John Borden, Chairperson, and Commission members Dennis Cain, Louis Fuerst, Stanley Klein, William Meyer, and Herbert Pennock discussed the following with the Mayor and Council.

The Commission asked for the Mayor and Council's input on an outline of written pedestrian policies they are working on and hope to complete by September-October 1993. Councilmember Coyle questioned whether the Commission looked at these policies from the perspective of the types of areas involved, i.e., corridors, neighborhoods, pedestrian zones; he suggested that these be sorted out. City Manager Romer was asked to follow up with the Commission on the coordination on these policies in relationship to Town Center.

Regarding the pedestrian survey, the Commission received 21 responses to date and they plan to continue more articles on pedestrian issues. Councilmember Coyle suggested that they work on an educational video from the pedestrian and driver points of view.

The Commission expressed concern that the smoothseal program was eliminated in the FY94 budget and that the sidewalk links program was not funded.

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Regarding the Town Center traffic and pedestrian issues, the Commission was not happy that the 448-level plan was dropped. A memo will be forthcoming to the Mayor and Council on these issues.

The Commission is working on the following upcoming projects: school flashing beacon; relocation of MD Rt. 28 to Gude Drive; telecommuting workshops; a Ride-On bus system that would best serve the City; and transportation alternatives for new areas developed in the City.

Re: Worksession with Board of Appeals

James Moone, Chairperson, and Board Members Paul Douglas, Alan Sternstein, and Karen Lechter discussed the following with the Mayor and Council.

The Board outlined their primary function and responsibilities. They have had the County attend a recent Board of Appeals meeting and have made plans to continue such meetings with the County to work out how to deal with County requests for appeals. Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College have claimed immunity from the City's zoning regulations but agreed to voluntarily inform the City of such processes. This question has been submitted to the City's legal staff. There is considerable concern by the Board of Appeals that there are impacts, i.e., traffic, that result from appeal applications that the City needs to be aware of. Mayor Duncan suggested that the County be required to do traffic studies and analyses. The Mayor and Council agreed that if the Board of Appeals does not agree on a County application, the Board should go on record as being opposed and the Mayor and Council will defend the Board on that vote. Chief Planner Larry Owens will get the background information on the immunity issue to Assistant City Attorney Dave Podolsky.

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Re: Worksession with Historic District  
Commission

Alice Kelly, Chairperson, and Commission member Dean Brenneman discussed the following with the Mayor and Council. The Commission is working on the Maryland Historic Trust Surveys. The Commission is also working with Peerless Rockville to complete the research project on the houses that are in the City.

Regarding the Historic District identification program, ideas for extending the banners up West Montgomery were discussed. Staff to get cost estimates on extending these banners and look also at placement of banners on Maryland Avenue once Maryland Avenue is extended through. Funding can come out of the FY93 budget for this. Mayor Duncan asked that the residents on Montgomery and Maryland Avenues be notified that this is taking place.

Regarding the Master Plan, the Commission feels a need to investigate different types of zoning (i.e., bed and breakfast zoning) for the City's larger, older homes. Also, some type of exemption for the City's older properties needs to be considered so that older properties are not required to meet code.

Re promotion of Historic District and expansion, the Commission discussed the possibility of including in the survey, ideas to promote individual sites as opposed to districts. The Mayor and Council supported this and asked that the Commission make sure the residents understand that it is voluntary.

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Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. to convene again in General Session on May 10, 1993, or at the call of the Mayor.